

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated January 11, 2005. Claims 1, 3 to 7, 9 to 13 and 15 to 32 remain in the application, with Claims 2, 8 and 14 having been canceled. Claims 1, 7, 13, 19, 20, 24, 28 and 32 are the independent claims herein. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,714,964 (Stewart). The rejections are respectfully traversed and the Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in light of the following comments.

The present invention concerns generating a print order to be submitted to a print shop for printing. According to the invention, when a client PC wants to submit a print order, a center server provides a printer information description file that describes print setting information for a plurality of types of printers. Based on the information in the file, a printer driver in the client forms print data and then forms a print order based on the formed print data. The formed print data is then transmitted to the center server. The center server converts the received print data, which is described in a page description language, into a printer description language file in a format common to the plurality of printers. The converted data is then transmitted by the center server to a print shop where the print order is processed.

With specific reference to the claims, amended independent Claim 1, which is directed to the client side, is a print order requesting method of communicating with a print management apparatus via a network, comprising a receiving step of receiving a printer information description file, corresponding to a plurality of types of printers, from

the print management apparatus, a print data forming step of forming print data by using a printer driver, which can set print set information on the basis of the printer information description file, a print order forming step of forming a print order on the basis of the formed print data, and a transmitting step of sending the formed print order to the print management apparatus.

Amended independent Claims 7, 13 and 19 are computer medium, computer program, and apparatus claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 1.

Amended independent Claim 20, which is directed to the server side, is print order reception method of communicating with a client via a network, comprising a printer information description file transmitting step of transmitting a printer information description file describing information corresponding to a plurality of types of printers to said client, a receiving step of receiving a print order from said client, wherein the print order is formed by said client on the basis of print data which is formed by the client on the basis of print set information in accordance with the printer information description file, a data converting step of data-converting print data described by a page description language included in the received print order into a printer description language file as a format in common with the plurality of types of printers, and a print order transmitting step of transmitting the data-converted print data in accordance with the print order.

Amended independent Claims 24, 28 and 32 are computer medium, computer program, and apparatus claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 20.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of the present invention. More particularly, the applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest at

least the feature of a client receiving a printer information description file describing information of a plurality of printers, forming print data based on the received printer description file, forming a print order based on the formed print data, and transmitting the formed print order to a print order management apparatus.

Stewart is merely seen to disclose uploading data, including print data, to a web server. An upload manager communicates with a server to determine whether the printer driver installed on the client is valid, and if not, downloads the latest version of the printer driver. The downloaded printer driver is then used to render the print data that is to be uploaded to the web server. Thus, Stewart merely downloads a printer driver for a single printer and therefore, is not seen to download a printer description file describing information of a plurality of printers. Accordingly, Stewart also cannot form print data based on the file describing the plurality of printers, or form a print order based on such formed print data. Therefore, Stewart is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of the present invention.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all of Claims 1, 3 to 7, 9 to 12 and 15 to 32 are believed to be allowable.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,
California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to
be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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